

3552
The forgetful SINNER, reminded of
his approaching END.

A
SERMON,
PREACHED AT
LIVERPOOL in LANCASHIRE,
AT THE
FUNERAL

Of the Late

Mr. Abraham Storer.

By *WILLIAM HALLEY,*
MINISTER of the Gospel.

Pray read it and keep it clean, it will be call'd for
To-morrow, with more if wanted Price *Two-pence,*
or *Twelve Shillings* a Hundred to those who are dis-
pos'd to give them away.

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Christian Reader,

THIS is writ in great Love to thy Soul, consider
the shortness of thy Time, and the greatness of thy Work.
Thou hast God to Honour, thou hast Christ to believe in,
thou hast a Race to run, thou hast a Crown to win,
thou hast a Heaven to make sure, and a Hell to escape.
Make haste to the City of Refuge, God is the Avenger.
Remember me in your Prayers and I have my Desire.

WILLIAM HALLEY.



REV. X. 5. 6.

And the Angel which I saw standing upon the Sea, and upon Earth, lifted up his Hand to Heaven

And swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, that there should be Time no longer.

FROM these Words I shall raise several Uses, and my first use shall be a use of Instruction. it is so, that at the end of the World, Time shall be no longer, then from hence we may learn, that when Time is at an end, Eternity will certainly begin both by eternity of happiness to the Saints, and eternity of Torments to the wicked: When once these opportunities of time is at an end, then will follow an infinite duration of Time, that will never have an end, Oh! how this will encrease the Joys of the Saints, when they *are entered into their joyful place* Above, to think what a vast Ocean of time *is before them*. What an infinite Million of Millions of Years, they have to possess these their Joys in, and after Ten thousand and Millions of Years past, yet still their Joys are but beginning, and their Joys are fresh to them, as they were at their first Entrance into them. And Oh! what a Hell of Hells this will be to the Damn'd; when they come
A 2 into

into the place of torment, to think what a vast ocean of Time is before them, to endure these their Torments in, what an infinite Million of Millions of Years they have to lie burning in those hellish Flames and yet after ten Hundred Thousand Million of years should be no near to the end, no not one Minute, nor one Moment nearer to an end, than they were the first Day they entered into these Torments? nay they shall be so far from ending that they will be even but beginning. And Oh! what a Hell of Hells this will be to the Damn'd, to think upon this: O eternity eternity, Oh! vast Eternity? what Heart can conceive, what Tongue can express the duration of it; If we count as many Million of Years as there are stars in the Sky, and then as many Million of Years as there are piles of grass, and Grains of Corn that is growing, and has grown since the Creation of the World; and then add to them as many Millions of Years as there has been Living Creatures of all Sorts from the beginning of the World and shall be to the end; and likewise add to them number of the Dust of the Earth, and the Sands on the Sea-shore: Now, to one's thinking all these Millions of Millions of Years will never be run out; but yet in time they will be spent and run out: yet for all that we are not come to an end, no, nor to the beginning of eternity; Eternity is an infinite durative, that shall never, never have an end.

II. My next use shall be a use of Reproof: It is so that at the end of Time this golden Opportunity of grace will be at an end, and time shall cease and be no longer, and after this small scantling of Time, here follows an Eternity, either of Joy or Torments, then what shall we think of those who squander away these golden Opportunities, in doing that which is worse than nothing.—All the Time that God is offering them Christ, Grace, and Mercy, and calling upon them to repent and accept of Mercy offered all

all that time in waste in following their Lust, grieving his Spirit, despising his Mercy, and abusing his Goodness.

A great many of the poorer sort spend a great part of their precious Time in Drudging in the World in carking Cares, and in labouring to get a little of this World's Goods, and it may be, as soon as they have got a little together, they die and leave it behind them, they can rise early, and work, and eat, and drink, and sleep, and this is all they can mind; they don't consider that they have an immortal Soul to look after, that they have an Eternity to look for, they can spare no time for these Things that *are of so great Concernment*. Again others there are that have more time than the poorer sort, yet, Oh how dreadful it is to consider how their time is squandered and wasted away, some spend much of their precious time in *unnecessary* Visits; in following Sports and Pastimes, others waste much of their precious time at cards and dice, others in feasting and drinking, in rioting and gaming, some Ladies there are that waste much of their precious time and Day of Salvation, in Dressing and Decking themselves in gawdy Attire, in Pride and Wantonness. And thus, all the time that God is calling, wooing, and beseeching People both by his Word and Spirit, to repent and accept of Christ and Mercy, he offers them better, sweeter and more durable Pleasures than these earthly Delights, if they will but hearken to his Calls and return: all this time they are drinking, Gaming, and following their Pleasures of the Flesh; and all the Persuasions and all the Warnings in the World will not take them off from their sinful course of Life. Again others there are, when they are alone, yet then their is much of their precious time wasted by *them in vain*, and sinful Imaginations. so that God and the Things of another World is not in all their Thoughts.

Now

Now for *Pagans* and *Heathens*, who know not God nor a Future state, for them to waste their time in fleshly Lust, is not so much. But we that Live under the Gospel, under the calls of God, under the stirrings of his Spirit, under the offers of Grace. for us to waste our golden Season of Grace in following our carnal Delights, in deafning our Ears to his call, in grieving his Spirit, and abusing his offers of Mercy: For us to do it, Oh! how sad and Dreadful will one's Doom be at last; we above all others shall have the hottest place in Hell, Oh! it is a sad Consideration for wicked Men to think of, that when they come to Hell, then they will cry, Oh! that I had harkned in time to the Calls of God, and obey'd the Motions of his Spirit, Oh! the many days and Nights I have spent in Rioting and Drinking, Oh! the many Hours I consumed in Playing and Gaming, if I had spent all that time in examining my Heart and Life, in Fasting and Praying, in Repenting and weeping for my Sins, in begging Pardon and Mercy for the sake of Christ, in striving to help others with me in the way of Heaven, and in labouring to work out my own Salvation.

If I had but thus spent my Time, where might I now have been, I should never have been in this dreadful Place, but now I should have been among yonder Saints, rejoicing and Triumphant with them in Glory, Oh! that the Time past could be called back again, and the Years that I have so vainly spent Oh! that I could be admitted once more into the assembly of God's Saints, Oh! that God would try me once more with the means of Grace, (though I lived by nothing but by Bread and Water) Oh! now I could condemn the World and the Vanities thereof, all the Temptations, Baits and Allurements that the World, the Flesh, and the Devil can afford, should never more be able to draw me into Sin, oh! how strickly, how holy, and how purely would I
Live

Live. oh! it would make one's Heart even to ake, to consider what lamentable outcries these damned Souls will then make; but alas, God tries them one Sabbath and another Sabbath and then another, he tries them one Year and then another Year, Year after Year they are called upon, both by God's Messengers, and their godly Friends to repent, and be converted, how often are they offered Grace and Mercy in the World, and by the Spirit are lovingly intreated, to accept of it, how often are they told and told again, what will become of them, if they consume their precious time in fleshly Lust and Pleasures; and yet all the Persuasions and all the Warnings in the World will not prevail, nay, if the Messenger of God and all their godly Friends and Neighbours did fall on their Knees to them for the sake of Christ that died for them that they would take pity upon their poor Souls, and forsake their wicked Courses, and seek for Mercy and Pardon, before it be too late, but all the Means in the World will not prevail with them. And yet when Time is at an end and the gate of Mercy is shut and nothing but an eternity of Torments before them, then the'll wring their Hands and gnash their Teeth, and cry out, oh that I had been reform'd when I were so often called upon by GOD's Messenger's, and my godly Friends, oh, that god would try me once more Sure if the Devil did not bewich People certainly they would never do as they do, *How often saith Christ, would I have gathered ye together, as a Hen gathereth her Chickens under her Wings, but ye would not, Matth. 23. 37.* I hope you will consider of these Things before it be too late.

III. My Third Use shall be of Expostulation: Beloved Friends you see here how the Angels swear by him that liveth for ever and ever, that Time shall be no longer; *What is the Reason then, you will not be persuaded to take hold of Time, in seeking for Mercy*
and

and Reconciliation with God, before it be too late, Oh ! how lovingly God expostulates with his People. Jer. 13. 27. Oh ! Jerusalem, wilt thou not be made clean Oh ! when shall it once be.

Thus he expostulates with every stubborn rebellious Sinner, Oh ! Sinner, when wilt thou be made clean : Oh ! why wilt thou not repent and be reform'd, How long shall I offer thee Christ, Pardon and Peace, and thou not accept of the offer, how long shall I stand waiting for thy Repentance, and thou continuest in thy Impenitency and wearest my Patience, and wilt not turn ? how long shall I stand proffering thee Mercy and Pardon, and thou dispise it ? What is the Reason that no means will work upon thee ? how often have I called upon thee by my Word, and wooed thee by my Spirit ? How often have I sought to allure thee with Mercies and terrify thee with judgments, and have giving thee Warning after Warning, and yet nothing will prevail, is the Loss of thy immortal Soul the loss of Heaven and everlasting Life so small a matter with thee, that thou regardest it no more ? It is nothing to endure everlasting Burnings ? It is nothing to lie among Devils in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, for my Part I desire not thy everlasting Misery, but had rather thou in time accept of Mercy, that thou may'st be saved. if I had any Delight in thy Damnation thou had'st been in Hell long before this Time, I had never stood waiting upon thee as I have done, suffering thee to grieve my Spirit, tire my Patience, turn my Grace into Wantonness, to trample under Foot the Blood of my dear Son, that was shed to wash away thy Sins, if I had delighted in thy Damnation I never had called upon thee so often as I have done, to turn and Live ; I had never given thee so many Warnings as I have done.

Oh ! miserable and hardened Sinner, do I deserve this unkind Dealing at thy Hand that thou still abusest my Mercy and Goodness, when wilt thou return to me,
with

with a full Resolution to leave thy Sins, and become a new Creature and accept of Mercy offered? When shall that Time come, Oh! when shall it once be, it is such a Time as would rejoice the Angels of Heaven to behold it.

And Friend, is it not a great deal better to be a joy to Angles, than to be a Laughing-stock to Devils, Oh! Friends if all these loving Expostulations will not prevail with you I know not what will: What would God have done more for you, than he hath done, when you have despised his Mercy offered, and deatned your Ears against his Call? Yet God doth not cut you off, but he spares you another Year, and another, and when you still refuse and will not repent, then it may-be God sends sickness upon you, and the Messenger of Death to warn you, and then, it may-be you resolve a new Life, then you will become a new Creature, I will henceforth lead you a new Life if it would please God to restore me to my former Health. I will never more spend my Time as I have done: Then it may-be God tries you again with a new Life, but now all these Promises are forgot, and you are as bad if not worse than before: Now if neither Call nor Invitations, if neither Mercies nor Judgments nor Warnings will prevail, I know not what can be said or done more.

IV. My fourth Use shall be a use of Motive: If all these Expostulations will not prevail

vail, I will lay down serious Considerations to a timely Repentance, and I will try what they can do whither by them you will be stirred up to the Improvement of your Golden Season of Grace before it be at an end, and no longer.

1. Consider first how precious your Time is in this World, it is far more precious than Gold, now all the Gold, all the Riches, and all the Treasures in this World cannot purchase one Minute of Time when it is gone and past; People don't know how precious their Time is until they come to the end of it, and when once it is ended, O then they know the worth of it, Sinners enquire what they shall do to pass away their Time, is it so Plenty with them, that they know not what to do with it, tho' they have so many sinful Lusts to mortifie, so many Corruptions to subdue, so many Sins to repent of, Christ to get an Interest in, and their Pardon to sue out, and Temptations to strive against against, so much work to do for God and their own Souls and the Souls of others and yet they know not how to spend their Time. Ay, but when once they come to lie on their Death-bed and see nothing before them but Eternity of misery, Oh! they they will prize Time after another Rate, then they would give Ten thousand Worlds if they had them but for another Year, or but for one Quarter of that Time as much as they will do then

then, they would away with their Cards and Dice and other pastimes, and would spend every Minute to the best Advantage they can for their Souls and eternal Welfare.

2. Consider how dangerous it is to squander and waste away this you precious Time, in fleshly Lusts and Pleasures; it may be you think of repenting hereafter, when you come to lie on your Bed, but who knows but that you will die suddenly as many do, without the least space to repent, and besides, it is a madness for any to think to do that great Work in an Instance of Time when Time is at an end which is enough to fill up their whole Time by supposing that you shall have a breathing Space at the Day of Death, yet who knows how long the Season of grace may continue? *Behold saith the Apostle, now is the accepted Time behold now is the Day of Salvation, 2 Cor 4. 2* It is now that God calls and offers you his Spirit to assist and help you and promises to accept you, if you will but come to his Call, before he hath given you over to yourselves. God who offers you grace to Day, it may be will not offer it again to morrow, I have read a sad Story of an extravagant young Man who being often admonish'd by his godly Friends to repent and reform his wicked Life, he presumptuously gave them this Answer, *That when he lay dying. would be Time enough.* These Words

Words I suppose was to be; *Lord have Mercy upon me*, but on a certain Time as he was Riding over a narrow Bridge, his Horse slipped and fell in with him, after struggling a while he was heard to speak these Words, *Devil take all*. These were his Words of Repentance. It is therefore exceeding dangerous, to put off our great Work, until Time is at an End.

My good Friends, let me beg you will seriously reflect on your Condition, and

3. Consider, that the Season and Opportunity of Grace is the greatest Mercy we can enjoy, it is such a Mercy as never was vouchsafed to the fallen Angels: Thus God's Mercies are renewed to us every Morning, because he every Morning gives us as it were new Life and a new Opportunity of grace, and if Friends trifle and squander away such golden Opportunities as God hath put into your Hands, you trample under your Feet one of the choicest of God's Mercies, and do you think that God will bear this at your Hands?

4. Consider, that you accepted Time, and Season of Grace is continually a spending, whether you improve it well or not, Time is continually passing away, it will not stay for you whilst you are following your sinful Pleasures and wearing God's Patience, but is continually passing away when once the Sun is up it keeps its Course, and never ceases going

going until it is gone down, when once a Candle is lighted it keeps continually Burning, until tis done: When once a Glass is turn'd it never ceases running until it is out. so soon as a Man is born God doth immediately put an Oppertunity of Grace into his Hands, and then it passes and keeps passing away, and never ceases running until it is at an End, one Day follows another, one Sabbath follow, another, and so Time keeps running till the last, it will cease and be no longer.

5. Consider how dreadful your state will be at last if Time should be at an End before you have made your Peace with God. If whilst you are sinning away your Time, God should clap a Curse upon your Souls, and swear in his Wrath that you shall not enter into his Rest, And so shut against you the the Door of Mercy for ever. Oh! what a dreadful Condition will you be in then! It had been good for you if you had never been born, as the foolish Virgins did, saying *Lord. Lord, open unto us*, But the Lord will send you away, with this most dreadful Sentance, ——— I know ye not, Depart from me ye Workers of Iniquity.

This is the most dreadful Sentance that is to be found in the Gospel. read and tremble at it.
 Luke 19. 42.

As Christ drew nigh unto Jerusalem he
 looked

looked up to him, with Tears in his Eyes, wept over him and said, Oh! that thou hadst known, even thou the least in this thy Day, the Things which belong unto thy Place, but now they are hid from thine Eyes.

Ob! Friends.

What a dreadful Think must it be, if Christ who is now in Heaven, should be weeping and lamenting, over any of us in this Land.

Oh! Sinner, hadst thou but known, even thou at the least in this thy Day of Grace, the Things which belong to thy everlasting Peace, but now they are hid from thine Eyes now Grace is for ever gone from thee, now the Door of Hope is for ever shut against thee, now Mercy has done thee for ever. now thou may'st seek thy God, but shall not find him? now the accepted Time and Salvation is at an End. Now thou may'st pray and beseech the Lord, even for the sake of Christ who died for thee, that he would bestow upon thee Pardon and Mercy but all in vain

O what a dreadful Thing would this be? There is such another terrifying Place in Ezek. 34, 13. Because I would have purged thee, thou wast not purged, thou shalt not be purged from thy Filthiness, any more 'till I have caused my Fury to rest on thee. Because I would have purged thee by my Words and by my Spirit, by Mercies and Judgments, by Afflictions and by Warnings,
and

and thou wast not purged. Therefore I'll give thee over, my Spirit be done with thee I will wait no longer, I will never try thee more, I shall cause my Wrath and Fury to rest upon you in endless and everlasting Torments.

V. And last I shall conclude with a few Words of Exhortation, shall exhort you in the Apostle, *Redeem the time. because the Days are Evil.* It is so that at the lost Time shall be no longer, then let me exhort Time before it be gone, O let the Time pass suffice, wherein we have wrought the will of Gentiles, 1 *Pet.* iv. 3.

Beloved Friends, be persuaded for your Souls sake to spend the remainder of your Time in the Service of God, and in working out your Sins, whatsoever you are about, whether alone or in Company, yet still be redeeming your Time.

Friends, if you would do this, it must be now while they and you live together, which will be but for a little while for when Time is at an end, then it will be too late to do it when our Condition will be unalterable for ever. Therefore take care of your own Souls in Time and the Souls of others.

To

To conclude.

Let me intreat and earnestly exhort you to spend the small Remains of your Days in Prayers and Supplications to God Almighty, to grant you Pardon for your Sins, and offences: And at the last Day, when Time shall be no more, he will please to admit and receive you into the Heavenly mansions there to rest for evermore and enjoy an Eternity of Felicity.

Consider duly what has been said, and the Lord give you understanding. *& the Devil*

In his name Amen

F I N I S.

